



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

September 18, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

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COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH HOUSING PLAN

On December 20, 2011, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requested the authority to extend the current Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP+) contracts for one year. This item was amended by Supervisor Antonovich to direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), DCFS and the Probation Department (Probation), in partnership with the Self-Sufficiency Workgroup, to report back in 30 days and quarterly thereafter on a comprehensive transition-aged youth housing plan, incorporating the mandates of Assembly Bill (AB) 12 and State realignment, and maximizing available funding through necessary changes, if any, to the THPP, THP+ and Transitional Housing Program-Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) programs. The 30-day report was submitted to the Board on January 20, 2012. The first quarterly report was submitted to the Board on April 20, 2012; this is the second quarterly report.

In January 2012, the Auditor-Controller (A-C) reviewed DCFS' and Probation's joint Youth Development Services (YDS) program and released its findings on the contract and case management of the THPP, THP, and THP+ housing programs. The A-C reported that, overall, the contractors who were reviewed are not ensuring that participants meet program requirements, and that the monitoring of these contractors to ensure their compliance is not being done accurately or consistently. In reference to THP+, the A-C concluded that, "it does not appear the program is meeting the goal of ensuring that the participants leave the program ready to be independent."

In response to these findings, DCFS management transferred the THP program accounting oversight responsibilities to its Central Finance section to ensure tighter

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fiscal controls. YDS management instituted changes in their contract oversight including: 1) Dedicating specific staff to conduct technical reviews for all YDS contracts (Housing and ILP); 2) Developing and implementing a standardized technical review instrument for all contractors; 3) Training all contract monitoring staff on conducting on-site technical reviews and the correction plan planning process (notice, provider response and follow-up reviews); and 4) Establishing a schedule of technical reviews (and any needed follow-ups) for each contract year for every provider.

DCFS has decided to pursue transferring the THP contract administration responsibilities over to LAHSA because of their ability to provide greater contract monitoring and accountability. In the short-term, these contracts would be transferred to LAHSA, with LAHSA contracting back, in the short-term, case management services to DCFS so that there is no program disruption. Contracting these services back to DCFS temporarily is necessary to ensure that youth can remain in their housing programs and receive uninterrupted services during the administrative transfer. The contracting transfer will give LAHSA the ability to provide greater program oversight and accountability immediately while they determine, in partnership with DCFS and Probation, how best to operate these programs within a comprehensive continuum of care framework. HUD officials are very supportive of this direction, and DCFS is now finalizing a detailed plan for moving forward. To effectuate this change, LAHSA and the County will be submitting letters to HUD requesting the transfer. Once approved by HUD, the County and LAHSA would work to transition these contracts smoothly to ensure program stability, and work on a longer term plan for maximizing program performance. DCFS is finalizing a project plan for this process; the projected timeline for completion is about one year.

In addition to finalizing a plan for this transfer, DCFS and Probation are also determining what the creation of a THP+FC program, as required by AB 12, would look like. The California State Department of Social Services has released an All County Letter that specifies how the THP+FC program should operate for youth who remain in care after their 18th birthday per AB 12. As the THP+FC programs will need to be licensed, the letter discusses the options of expanding current THPP programs (which are already licensed) to include THP+FC and creating new licensed THP+FC providers. DCFS and Probation are determining the next steps for developing THP+FC housing options that best meet the needs of our youth while complying with these stipulations.

These efforts are moving us closer to building the type of foundation necessary for creating a proper continuum of housing resources for youth aging out of the system. Since DCFS and Probation are moving forward in implementing this continuum, this will be the final Board memo submission. If you have any questions or need additional

Each Supervisor
September 18, 2012
Page 3

information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Trish Ploehn at (213) 974-4532, or via e-mail at tploehn@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ:TP
CDM:eb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 Children and Family Services
 Probation
 Self-Sufficiency Workgroup

Comprehensive TAY Housing Plan Board Memo_September 2012